

REMARKS

The Examiner indicated that claims 17-30 and 35-44 are allowed. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowed subject matter.

The Examiner rejected claims 9-16, 31, 32 and 34 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Santos et al. (US 5,119,399). Applicants believe the Examiner's rejection of claims 9-16, 31, 32 and 34 are moot in light of Applicants' cancellation of claims 9-16, 31, 32 and 34.

The Examiner rejected claim 33 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Santos et al., as applied to claim 32 above. Applicants believe the Examiner's rejection of claim 33 is moot in light of Applicants' cancellation of claim 33.

Applicants have cancelled claims 9-16 and 31-34 from further consideration in this application. Applicants are not conceding in this application that those claims are not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner, as the present cancellations are only for facilitating expeditious prosecution of the allowable subject matter noted by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue these and other claims in one or more continuations and/or divisional patent applications.

CONCLUSION

Based on the preceding arguments, Applicants respectfully believe that all pending claims and the entire application meet the acceptance criteria for allowance and therefore request favorable action. If Examiner believes that anything further would be helpful to place the application in better condition for allowance, Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below. The Director is hereby authorized to charge and/or credit Deposit Account 09-0456 (IBM).

Respectfully submitted,
FOR:
Bonanccio et al.

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